



Press release

10 May 2012

Charity believes Coronations Street's storyline will give more men strength to come forward and get help.

The ManKind Initiative, a national charity supporting male victims of domestic abuse, welcomes the Coronation Street storyline where the character Tyrone Dobbs becomes a victim of domestic abuse at the hands of his partner, Kirsty Soames.

The charity believes that by highlighting the problem through the medium of a Soap will show men suffering in this way that they are not alone. It will also educate society and that domestic abuse happens to men too.

With analysis¹ of the latest British Crime Survey showing that male victims of domestic abuse are twice as likely to suffer in silence behind their front doors than female victims and are three times more reluctant to tell the police – the storyline will encourage more men to come forward and for more people to believe them when they do.

The charity believes that domestic abuse is not one dimensional (men on women) – it is four dimensional (men on women, women on men, men on men and women and women)

Mark Brooks, Chairman of the ManKind Initiative, said: "This brave Corrie storyline will make a real difference to the thousands of men suffering in silence behind their front doors.

"It powerfully demonstrates that men as well as women can be victims of domestic abuse. It will challenge society's belief that only women can be victims and will help men to come forward because they will have more confidence that they will be believed.

“It may be uncomfortable viewing to see Tyrone being assaulted by someone he loves. But if it helps just one man find the courage to escape from violence, it will all be worth it. “

Statistics

The British Crime Survey also revealed that for every three victims of partner abuse, for every three victims of domestic abuse and for every three victims of stalking - two will be female, one will be male.

In 2010/11, 4% of men (600,000) and 6% of women (900,000) reported having experienced partner abuse.

The charities 21 key facts about male victims in the UK can be found via its website at <http://tinyurl.com/ckkomfl>

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Notes to Editors

1. British Crime Survey 2010/11: <http://tinyurl.com/7slnnom>

Table 3.16: Who victim had told personally about the partner abuse experienced in the last 12 months, by sex England and Wales: Age 16 to 59)

Percentages	Men	Women	Ratio
Told anyone	72	87	1:1.2
Not tell anyone	28	13	2.1:1
Told someone in an official position	19	44	1:2.3
Police	10	29	1:2.9
Health professionals	4	19	1:4.75
Lawyer, solicitor or other legal professional	6	11	1.1:8
Local council department	1	6	1:6

2. About the ManKind Initiative

The ManKind Initiative (www.mankind.org.uk), based in Taunton, Somerset, is a national charity which runs a help-line, information and referral service for male victims of domestic abuse and domestic violence. The help-line number is 01823 334244 (weekdays 10am-4pm and 7pm-9pm)

Media

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